



A MESSAGE FROM QUEEN'S PARK • A MONTHLY COLUMN BY  
**MPP JOHN YAKABUSKI**



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On March 10th the membership of the PC Party chose Doug Ford as our new leader. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Ford as we take our message of accountability and change to the people of Ontario. It is great to have the issue of the leadership race behind us now so that we can concentrate our efforts on the real challenge: defeating Kathleen Wynne and her tired, old, and out-of-touch Liberal government.

On Friday, March 19th Kathleen Wynne made a desperate attempt to pull a rabbit out of a hat, hoping she could fool the people one more time. She prorogued the Legislature, so that she could introduce a Throne Speech. A Throne Speech is traditionally used to signal a new beginning, and it is clear that Wynne and the Liberals would like you to believe that they can start all over again. I recently had the opportunity to respond to the Throne Speech and you can watch that response here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOWXzNfBQrc>

Over the last 15 years while the Liberals have been in office, they have more than doubled the province's debt, taking spending to record levels, but they have also made life harder for the people of Ontario. Let me remind you of the 300 percent increase in your electricity bills, the endless increases in licencing fees of every nature, and who can forget the health tax? In spite of taking more and more out of people's pockets, they still have managed to burden this—and future—generations with a debt that would have been hard to imagine only a few short years ago. Servicing the debt is now the third-largest item in the provincial budget—exceeded only by health and education; this at a time when interest rates have enjoyed the longest sustained period at very low levels, but what happens when those rates inevitably go up?

It's not like they haven't spent money—the Liberals are very good at that—in 2002-2003 government expenditures were \$66.5 billion versus a projected \$150 billion for the fiscal year of 2018-2019. The problem with Liberals is that they are more interested in simply spending money rather than being concerned with the results. Liberals like to say, "Look at how much we have been able to spend". I like to say, "Look at what we've been able to accomplish by spending your money wisely."

In spite of the fact that they spend money at record levels, the services received by people seems to be fewer and fewer. For example, 34,000 people are currently on a waitlist for a bed in a long-term care home. What's more, those aging at home are unable to get the care they need.

In a budget that will likely be tabled by the time you read this column, it is expected that we will be going even deeper into debt. Wynne and the Liberals have decided that the only way for them to win the election in June is to bribe you with more of your own money. What Liberals fail to realize is that there will always be requests for spending from the electorate: it is the job of government to provide the best-possible services while still acting responsibly and respecting people's ability to pay—whether it is current or future generations.

As you read this we should be in the middle of Holy Week, a very special time for Christians all over the world. I hope that you have some time to reflect on how your faith impacts your life and those around you on a daily basis. Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!